

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03890 131611Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
L-03 SAA-01 SSM-03 PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /104 W
-----130604 141441Z/43

R 121326Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8678
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR PORG ICAO LE
SUBJ: POLITICIZATION OF ICAO: LEBANESE VIEWS

REF: STATE 167737

1. ECONOFF CALLED ON DIRGEN CIVIL AVIATION BEYDOUN JULY 11 TO MAKE POINTS REFTEL AND HEAR DGCA OPINION OF NEW ICAO SELECTION PROCEDURE.
2. BEYDOUN HAD NOT RECEIVED REPORT ON JUNE 22 ICAO PROCEEDINGS. AFTER REVIEWING PARAS 2-3 REFTEL, HE RECOLLECTED THE PRE-JUNE 22 SELECTION PROCEDURE WITH FAMILIARITY AND AFTER ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES' DISCUSSION OF ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES GAVE HIS OPINION THAT NEW PROCEDURE WAS MORE OPEN THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE. ASSUMING GENERAL RESPECT FOR THE OBJECTIVITY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, BEYDOUN SAID, ONE COULD ANTICIPATE THAT HIS CHOICE FROM THE SHORT LIST WOULD PRODUCE A TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED APPOINTEE.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03890 131611Z

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER THE NEW PROCEDURE DID NOT GRANT VETO POWERS TO THE AD HOC COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO THE SHORT LIST, BEYDOUN AGREED IT DID BUT NOTED THAT VETO POWER WAS INHERENT IN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ROLE UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM AND WOULD BE "OUT IN THE OPEN" UNDER THE NEW ONE. BEYDOUN AGREED THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POSITION OF SECRETARY-

GENERAL AS AN "INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT" AND THOSE OF AD HOC COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO WERE FUNDED BY STATES, BUT AGAIN DECLINED TO SEE A FORBODING PRACTICAL EFFECT IN THE NEW PROCEDURES.

4. COMMENTS: BEYDOUN'S VIEWS WERE DEVOID OF EXCITEMENT ON THE ISSUE. HE WAS UNINFORMED OF IT, BUT EVEN AFTER CONSIDERING IT FOUND NO BAIT WORTH RISING TO. WE WONDER WHETHER ICAO SECRETARY-GENERAL KOTEIT, BEING LEBANESE, REACTED WITH SIMILAR EQUANIMITY TO THE RULE CHANGE. BEYDOUN APPARENTLY (1) HAS NO OFFICIAL GOL GUIDANCE ON THE CHANGE, (2) IS PERSONALLY NOT AGAINST IT, AND (3) IS NOT A SOURCE OF STRONG VIEWS EITHER PRO OR CON. SINCE WE HAVE NO SIGN THAT LEBANON'S VOTE ON THE ISSUE WAS DIRECTED FROM BEIRUT, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT ICAO USREP APPROACH GOL REP MOUFID ABOUCHACRA WITH REFTEL POINTS DIRECTLY.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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